Charlotte™ PUBLIC SCHOOLS
High School
378 State Street, Charlotte, MI 48813 PH: 517.541.5600 FAX: 517.541.5625

4/10/2020

Dear Charlotte High School Orioles:

This is a message for all Charlotte High School students. Well, mostly. There is a lot here for parents, too, especially at the very end.

I'll start by talking about health. I sincerely hope you are all well, and getting into a positive and productive groove at home. I'm sure that for many of you there have been times in the past few weeks where you've been frustrated, sad, afraid, or anxious. If those emotions start to feel overwhelming, please call us for help. Ms. Cheadle, Mrs. Leavitt, and Mrs. Davis available to support you. Here is their contact information.

- Ms. Cheadle, Counselor gds. 11-12, (517) 541-5600, cheadlk@charlottenet.org
- Mrs. Leavitt, Counselor gds. 9-10, (517) 541-5100, leavits@charlottenet.org
- Mrs. Davis, Student Support Specialist, (517) 541-5130, davisq@charlottenet.org

This school building closure is a challenge. But it is a *building* closure, it is *not* the end of school. School continues until our normal end date of June 5th.

As you all know, your teachers have worked very hard to provide activities for you to continue your learning at home. While they are staying in their homes (like you are) taking care of their own families, and worried about those they love (like you are), they have been learning new ways to provide you valuable learning opportunities. Starting next week, we are going to have a clear set of shared expectations for how much school work teachers will give you to do each week. The target will be for you to do between 2-3 hours of school work each weekday.

If you or someone you know doesn't have the technology or Internet connection to do the assigned work, please let us know. My number is (517) 541-5601. We will do everything we can to help every student be able to continue to engage in school. Also, our district is working on a plan to connect more families with devices and potential access to the internet, so stay tuned for details.

We have some reasons to celebrate our work so far. Many of you have been actively engaging in the learning opportunities that your teachers are creating for you. I am so impressed with those of you who have, and your teachers have been impressed! Please keep that up.

We also have some reasons to challenge ourselves, however. Some of you have not engaged very much in those learning opportunities. Some of you may not be engaging because you don't have the technology or you need more help and direction. If that is the case, please let your teachers know, or call me directly.

There are others of you, though, who could choose to engage, but instead are choosing to not do that. From what our teachers are hearing, a big reason that some students are not engaging is because the work won't be graded. Although you can improve your grades on past work, it is true that students will not have grades entered into the gradebook for work assigned after March 12. This is true for every student in the State of Michigan because that is what Governor Whitmer requires. The idea is that we don't want to hurt any student's grades, but we can help them improve their grades.

So there you have it. If all you care about is your grades *today,* then you can make the choice to not continuing to engage in learning. However, here is my *challenge for you*. I want you to care about more than that. I want you to care about (a) your emotional and physical well-being right now, and (b) your success in life in the years to come.

For right now, it is really important to you emotionally and physically that you get on a regular schedule and that you use your time productively. This helps your mind and body feel better because it gives a sense of normalcy at a time that is so totally not normal. This can help you feel less of the negative emotions that many of us are struggling with. So, I challenge you to create a schedule that includes school work, time for fun, and time to help your family. And stick with the schedule each day.

For your future, it is very important that you use this time to keep learning. As high schoolers, you all have been thinking about your futures. Even as freshmen, you know you are getting close to moving on to your future as adults when you will have to take care of yourselves financially. The more learning you do now, the more opportunities you will have to be successful, and to get a job that you love to do.

So please don't ask, "Will this be graded?" Ask instead, "What can I do with my time *today* that will *help the future me* succeed?" It can be hard to decide to spend energy on things today that will help you next year and the years after that. But that is what I am challenging you to do. This is what I am hoping you will do. Because it matters to you.

By continuing to engage in school activities, you will:

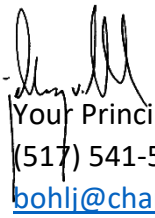
- Learn things that will help you be successful in the next year, or 2, or 3, of high school. Things that will help you graduate at a level of success you can be proud of.
- Learn things that will help you be successful *after you graduate* in work, in college or trade school, or in the armed forces.
- Learn things that will help you impress your first employers, who will be looking to hire strong thinkers and problem solvers who will do what needs to be done when the going gets tough.
- Do things that will impress your teachers, so you can earn their valuable letters of recommendation for school and for jobs—letters where they can say great things about who you are as a person and about how you engaged in school even when you could have chosen not to.
- Even help your siblings learn what responsibility looks like. They need you to be great role models for them to look up.

So, will you take the challenge? Will you choose to engage in 2-3 hours of school work every day? That choice is yours. Well, yours *and* your parents'.

You are Charlotte Orioles. The Charlotte community has hopes and dreams for you, and we are here to support you in making the right choice. I sincerely hope that each of you will make your community proud by digging in and doing the right thing over the next couple months. And remember, again, if you need any help or support, just ask.

Thank you for your time. All of the high school staff and I are looking forward to when we can have you back in the building and see your smiling faces every day. Until that time, be safe and choose wisely.

Go Orioles!



Your Principal, Mr. Bohl
(517) 541-5601
bohlj@charlottenet.org

P.S. Specifically for Parents.

This is and will continue to be tough. We are not asking any family to do anything that is out of your reach. But we do need whatever help you can give.

We all know that these kids are going to need some very clear expectations from you in order to continue to engage. So, I ask you to please read the expectations I will send out over the weekend, and then set clear expectations for your students for when they will be engaged in their school work each day. And check in on their progress regularly. In order for us all to be successful, we need your help.

Finally, I just want to say thank you all for your support of our teachers. It is so reassuring to us have that your support, to have your patience and flexibility, as we work our way through these challenges. So, from all of our CHS staff, I want to appreciate you for that!

Here's to getting through the rest of this crazy school year as a team . . . as a community . . . with the strength, style, and grace that we expect from ourselves as Orioles.

Have a great weekend.